

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claim 19 has been amended to further define the fluoroaliphatic group-containing monomer and the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer. These amendments are supported by the original disclosure, for example, page 21, line 1 to page 22, line 2. New claims 27-29 have been added. Claims 27-29 are supported by the original disclosure, for example, page 22, lines 3-21; page 21, lines 20-21; and page 24, lines 17-24. No new matter has been added.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-29 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Drawing

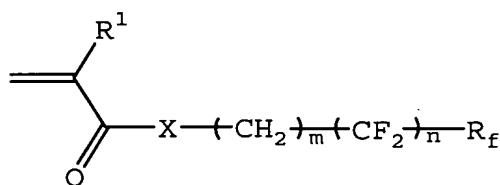
The Office Action Summary is silent regarding the drawing (1 sheet) filed with the application on March 15, 2006. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge acceptance of the drawing in the next official communication.

II. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0072943 to Anderson et al. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 as amended is patentable over Anderson et al. for at least the following reasons.

Claim 19 recites a method for producing an optical functional film, comprising at least a first functional layer and a second functional layer, which are adjacently formed in this order on a transparent support, wherein a coating composition for forming the first functional layer contains a fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer which has a polymerization unit derived

from a fluoroaliphatic group-containing monomer represented by formula (2) in a content of 10 weight% or more, the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer is localized on a surface of the first functional layer when the coating composition for forming the first functional layer is coated, and the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer dissolves out into a coating composition for forming the second functional layer when the second functional layer is coated:



formula (2)

wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or a methyl group; X represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or $-\text{N}(\text{R}^{12})-$; R^{12} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, which may have a substituent; R_f represents $-\text{CF}_3$ or $-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$; m represents an integer of 1 to 6; and n represents an integer of 1 to 17, and wherein the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer may contain two or more polymerization units derived from the fluoroaliphatic group-containing monomer represented by formula (2).

As described at page 4, line 23 to page 5, line 10, and page 17, line 14 to page 18, line 6 of the present specification, by using a coating composition including the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer having the specific structure as defined in present claim 19, when a lower layer of the coating composition is coated, the copolymer can be localized on the surface of the lower layer to reduce the film thickness unevenness. Also, when an upper layer is coated onto the lower layer, the copolymer can diffuse into the upper layer to eliminate the localization of the copolymer on the lower layer (i.e., the interface between the upper and lower layers), uniformity of the surface state can be maintained even at high-rate coating, and excellent adhesion between the upper and lower layers can be obtained, and thus an antireflection film having high scratch resistance can be obtained.

Anderson et al. fails to disclose or suggest the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer as defined in present claim 19. Moreover, Anderson et al. fails to disclose or suggest the above noted advantageous effects which can be achieved in the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is patentable over Anderson et al. and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

III. New claims

Newly added claims 27-29 depend from claim 19 and thus are patentable over the cited reference at least for the reasons set forth above in Section II.

IV. Conclusion


From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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